

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2809

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

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UNCLAS ATHENS 1663

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, PFOR, UK, GR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES STATEMENT ON HMG

CANCELLATION SHIP VISITS TO GREEK PORTS

REF: ATHENS 1624

1. IN COURSE REGULAR SATURDAY MEETING WITH PRESS,
FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES MARCH 16 CONFIRMED THAT HMG
HAD CANCELLED SCHEDULED VISIT TO GREEK PORTS OF TWO
BRITISH WARSHIPS (REFTEL). HIS STATEMENT WAS WIDELY
REPORTED AS FRONT PAGE, LEAD STORY NEWS IN ALL THREE
ATHENS GREEK-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS MARCH 17. TEXT FOLLOWS:
"THE INFORMATION IS TRUE. THIS MOREOVER HAS BEEN PUBLICLY
ANNOUNCED, AND AS AN EXCUSE THE BRITISH SIDE SAID THAT
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT 'WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
SEEING DEMOCRACY REESTABLISHED IN GREECE'. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY
CONSTITUTES INTERVENTION IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. GREECE
CAREFULLY AVOIDS INTERVENING IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF
OTHER COUNTRIES, NOT BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CASES OF FLAGRANT
VIOLATION BY CERTAIN OF THEM OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED
PRINCIPLES, BUT SYSTEMATICALLY, BECAUSE WE FAITHFULLY
OBSERVE THE PRINCIPLE ON NON-INTERVENTION IN THE
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AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES."

2. IN PUBLISHING TETENES TEXT SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS
AGENCY BULLETIN MARCH 18 ADDED: "MEANWHILE, IT WAS REPORTED
THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS LODGED AN OFFICIAL PROTEST
WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OVER THE STATEMENT MADE
BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN."
BRANDIN

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